

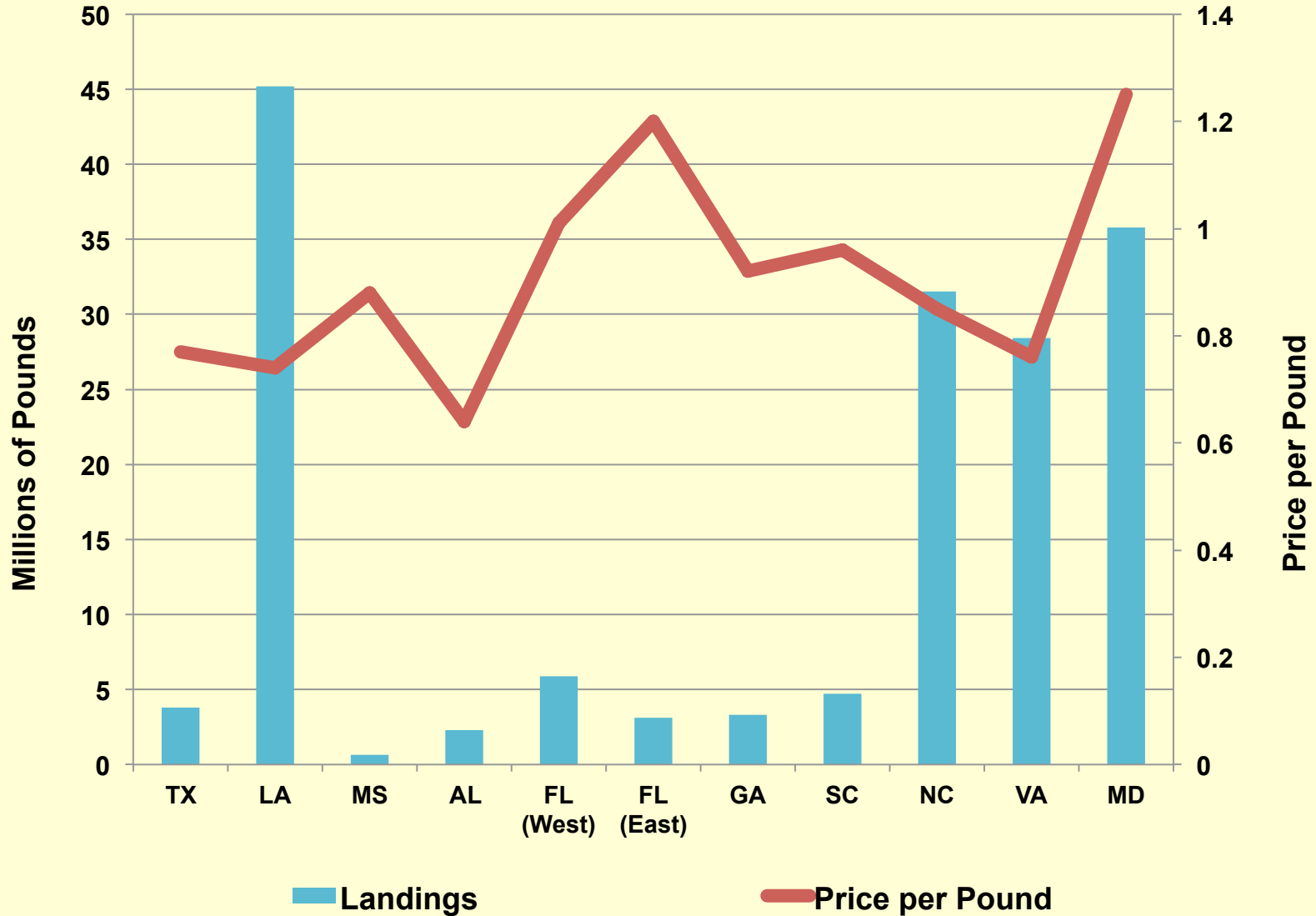


# **Comparisons of Commercial Crabbing Regulations in the Gulf and Atlantic States**

## **LOUISIANA CRAB TASK FORCE**

Office of Fisheries  
September 30, 2014  
New Orleans, LA

# Average Annual Blue Crab Landings and Price per Pound (2000 - 2012)



# Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

## Licensing

- Crab trap license moratorium (1998)
- General commercial fishing license = \$26
- Commercial crab fishing license = \$630 (may hold no more than 3)
- Sales = 225
- License buyback program

## Traps

- Limit = 200
- Commercial finfisherman limit = 20
- Escape rings (2 and 3/8") with 2 placed in each chamber
- Degradable panels (3"X 6")

## Trap/Vessel Identification

- Must prominently display license plate on each side of vessel
- Buoys marked with fisherman's license plate # (2" high letters) on center stripe of contrasting color

## Trap Placement

- 100' from any other trap except when tied to docks, piers
- No traps in FW areas
- No traps in navigation channels and other specified areas
- Closed season (Feb 20 – Mar 1) of each year/derelict crab trap cleanups

# Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

## Licensing

- Open access; training + apprenticeship/sponsorship requirements for new applicants
- Commercial fisherman's license = \$55
- Commercial crab trap license = \$35
- Sales = 3,296; however, only 1,560 reported TT sales of crabs in 2013
- Commercial vessel license = \$15
- Wholesale/Retail Sfd. Dealer License = \$105 (Required to operate shedding facilities)

## Traps

- No trap limits
- Escape rings (2 and 5/16") with 1 placed in each chamber; (3 rings 2 and 3/8") beginning in 2017
- No degradable panels
- No TEDs required

## Trap/Vessel Identification

- Traps tagged with commercial fisherman's license #

## Trap Placement

- Commercial crabbing prohibited on WMA's and Refuges and other specified areas
- Prohibited in navigable channels or stream entrances
- Closed season each year for derelict crab trap cleanups
  - Up to 16 consecutive days between Feb 1 - Mar 31
  - Up to 14 consecutive days in conjunction with spring shrimp season opening

# Mississippi Department of Marine Resources

## Licensing

- Open access, no limited entry
- Commercial crab trap license = \$75
- Sales = 192

## Traps

- No trap limits
- No escape ring requirements
- No degradable panels
- Use of turtle excluder device encouraged and available through MDMR

## Trap/Vessel Identification

- Traps tagged with fisherman's full name
- Buoys marked with fisherman's crab trap license number
- Fishermen may register a color coded buoy with MDMR and must affix the color code to each trap buoy and each side of the vessel

## Trap Placement

- Commercial crabbing prohibited N of I-10 in 3 coastal counties
- Commercial crabbing prohibited (Jan 1–Mar 31) in winter crab sanctuary
- Prohibited in navigable waterways
- Closed season ranging from 10-30 days each year for derelict crab trap cleanups

# Alabama Marine Resources Division

## Licensing

- Open access, no limited entry
- Commercial crab trap license = \$51
- Sales = 192

## Traps

- No trap limits
- No escape ring requirements
- No degradable panel requirements

## Trap/Vessel Identification

- Buoys marked with fisherman's identification #
- Vessels marked with trap owner's identification # on each side in block letters at least 3" tall

## Trap Placement

- Commercial crabbing prohibited N of the I-10
- Prohibited in navigable waterways, within 300' of public boat launches piers, docks, marinas
- Prohibited in certain rivers, creeks, bays and canals
- No closed seasons

# Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

## Licensing

- Crab trap license endorsement moratorium / Sales = 432
- Hard crab endorsement \$125
- Soft crab endorsement \$125
- Non-transferable blue crab endorsement \$125
- Blue crab incidental take endorsement \$25
- Saltwater products license \$50
- Trap tags \$.50 each; Replacement tags \$.50 each + \$8 handling fee

## Traps

- Limit = 600 + 400 offshore traps in Gulf with hard crab endorsement
- Limit = 400 peeler traps with soft crab endorsement
- Limit = 100 traps with non-transferable endorsement
- 200 lb trip limit with incidental take endorsement (stone crab and shrimp fishers)
- 3 escape rings (2 and 3/8")
- Degradable panels (3"X 6")

## Trap/Vessel Identification

- Traps marked with fisherman's endorsement #
- Buoys marked with fisherman's endorsement # (2" high letters)
- Buoy color and endorsement # marked on both sides of vessel

## Trap Placement

- Prohibited in Gulf waters seaward of 9 nautical miles
- 6 regional closures lasting no more than 10 days/derelict trap cleanups

# Georgia Coastal Resources Division

## Licensing

- Controlled access system with a limited # of licenses available
- License renewed by May 1 each year or re-issued by lottery
- Commercial crab fishing license = \$12 + \$2 per trap
- Commercial fisherman license = \$12
- Commercial boat license = \$5 for first 18' and \$.50 for each additional foot

## Traps

- Limit = 200
- 2 escape rings (2 and 3/8")
- No degradable panel requirements
- May be fished night and day

## Trap/Vessel Identification

- Colored buoys (no green) marked with identification # assigned by GCRD in characters at least 1" tall
- Vessel marked (both sides) with same identification # in block characters in contrasting color at least 8" tall

## Trap Placement

- Only in SW areas
- 100' from any other trap
- No traps in FW areas
- No traps in navigation channels and other specified areas
- No closed season



# South Carolina Marine Resources Division

## Licensing

- Open access
- Commercial SW license = \$25
- Crab trap license (up to 50 traps) = \$25 + \$1 for each additional trap
- Peeler trap license = \$75 + \$100 W/R seafood dealer license
- No more than 1 trap license per individual

## Traps

- 2 escape rings (2 and 3/8"), one in each chamber
- No degradable panel requirements
- No trap left unattended for more than 5-days
- No trap set in waters where trap may be exposed above water
- Subject to confiscation if containing dead catch or displaying excessive marine growth

## Trap/Vessel Identification

- Assigned identification # fixed to each trap buoy in characters 2" tall
- Assigned identification # fixed to each side of vessel in characters 8" tall
- Vessel must display 8" diameter circle painted same color combination as buoy

## Trap Placement

- Prohibited within 600' of public boat launch or ramp
- No obstruction to navigation
- Prohibited in specified areas
- Special regulations apply to traps placed in the ocean

# North Carolina Marine Resources Commission

## Licensing

- Limited access
  - Those who fish grandfathered
  - Those who qualify enter an eligibility pool
  - Qualification based on significant involvement in commercial fishing industry
- Commercial fishing license = \$200
- Commercial fishing vessel = \$1/ft up to 18'; \$1.5/ft from 18'-38'; \$3/ft for 38'-50', etc

## Traps

- 2 escape rings (2 and 5/16"), one in each chamber; may be temporarily suspended
- No degradable panel requirements
- Terrapin excluder devices may be required by NCMRC
- No trap left unattended for more than 5-days
- 150 trap limit in Newport River

## Trap/Vessel Identification

- Owner's vessel registration #, full name and initials fixed to each trap buoy

## Trap Placement

- Restricted in navigational channels
- Seasonally prohibited in certain areas
- User group conflicts – may restrict traps in certain areas and times
- Prohibited in crab spawning sanctuary

# Virginia Marine Resources Commission

## Licensing

- License sales moratorium (transferable)
  - Those who held a license in 2010
  - Waiting list (Commercial fishermen who reported no harvest from 2004-2007)
  - Number of new licenses issued dependent on winter dredge surveys
- Commercial fishing license = \$190
- Seafood landing license = \$175/vessel
- No more than 210 peeler traps allowed
- Trap license categories and trip limits

	<u>Spring/Summer</u>	<u>Fall/Winter</u>
• Up to 85 traps	10 bushels	8 bushels
• Up to 127 traps	14 bushels	10 bushels
• Up to 170 traps	18 bushels	13 bushels
• Up to 255 traps	29 bushels	21 bushels
• Up to 425 traps	47 bushels	27 bushels

# Virginia Marine Resources Commission

## (Continued)

### Traps

- 2 escape rings (2 and 3/8"), both in upper chamber; 2 and 5/16" in offshore waters
- No degradable panel requirements
- Trap harvest prohibited from 11-30-2014 through 3-17-2015
- Must remove traps by Dec 31 of each year
- Trap locations are licensed; marked with stakes; previous year's trap owner gets first right
- Trap limits in certain waters
- All culling done onboard vessel at harvest location
- No harvest on Sundays
- Harvest hours restricted (8 hours); times of day vary among months

### Trap/Vessel Identification

- Buoys and stakes marked with fishing license identification #

### Trap Placement

- At least 300' from any other trap
- Seasonally prohibited in 4 designated blue crab sanctuaries

# Maryland Department of Natural Resources

## Licensing

- Limited Entry with a cap placed on licenses issued
- Trap license categories
  - Up to 50 traps \$100
  - Up to 300 traps \$150
  - Up to 600 traps \$100 + \$150
  - Up to 900 traps \$150 + \$150

## Traps

- 2 escape rings (2 and 3/16"/bottom chamber) + (2 and 5/16"/top chamber)
- No degradable panel requirements
- Terrapin excluder devices (1 and 3/4" X 4 and 3/4") in each entrance funnel
- Fishermen fishing coastal bays and tributaries limited to 300 traps
- No harvest on Sundays or Mondays
- Harvest restricted to 8-hour periods (one-half hour before to 7.5 hours after sunrise)

## Trap/Vessel Identification

- Each string of traps marked at each end with buoy; buoys to display license identification # in characters 2" tall
- If buoy attached to a string, it must be marked with the number of traps in the string
- MDNR may require each trap buoy to have individual numbered markers

## Trap Placement

- Many specified areas restricted and/or prohibited
- Closed season Dec 15 – Mar 31

# ***QUESTIONS?***

---